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1999

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6-3-1999

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "06/03/1999 - EIU to Receive 6.59 Percent Budget Increase" (1999). 1999. 145.
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99-150

June 3, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU TO RECEIVE 6.59 PERCENT BUDGET INCREASE

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's appropriated and income funds budget will increase by \$4,525,600 or 6.59 percent under the fiscal year 2000 state budget signed by Gov. George Ryan Wednesday.

Ryan also allocated \$2 million in capital funds to plan renovations to Eastern's Doudna Fine Arts Center.

This brings Eastern's total appropriated and income funds budget to \$73,193,100, compared to the FY 1999 budget of \$68,667,500. EIU's operation and grant funds will come from three sources: \$41,328,400 from the general revenue fund; \$6,300,000 from the education assistance fund; and \$25,564,700 from the income fund.

"We are generally pleased with the level of funding and want to thank Sen. Judy Meyers and Rep. Dale Righter for their sponsorship of our appropriations bill and for

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BUDGET

their efforts on behalf of Eastern," said Eastern President Carol Surles. "The funding support for Eastern will enable us to continue to provide quality educational programs and services to our students."

In its Board of Trustees-approved initial FY 2000 budget submission, Eastern requested a total of \$75,277,400 in appropriated and income funds, a \$6,609,900 or 9.6 percent increase over the current year.

"Because the state funds for Eastern were allocated in a lump sum, we don't know yet how the legislature intends for universities to spend the money," said EIU Budget Director Kim Furumo. It is not known either whether Eastern will be receiving full funding for a proposed \$42.9 million renovation and expansion of the Doudna Fine Arts Center which was among the projects initially identified in the governor's Illinois FIRST proposal and was ranked 14th on IBHE's 52-item capital project priority list. Other EIU projects listed for Illinois FIRST funding included \$4 million for Booth Library equipment and \$2 million for the chilled water loop. The projects are listed at 45th and 46th on the IBHE capital project list.

Morgan R. Olsen, vice president for business affairs, commented last month that Eastern is "thrilled" with the Illinois FIRST funding proposal and hopes that any future changes in the plan won't affect EIU's portion. "It's encouraging that the Fine Arts Center project was one of only two mentioned by Gov. Ryan in his speech on Illinois FIRST," he said.

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BUDGET

The rehabilitation and expansion of the Doudna Fine Arts Center is among the \$435.2 million in capital projects identified in Eastern's campus master planning effort. The project, if approved, will begin with detailed programming of facility needs, then move to design of the building expansion and rehabilitation as recommended by the campus master plan, then to construction in subsequent fiscal years. The building, originally built in 1958, is a very heavily used facility that doesn't meet the current needs of the Departments of Art, Music and Theatre which are housed there.

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